

Week Ending Saturday, January 20, 2001

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Security Strategy of the
United States**

January 11, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 603 of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, I am transmitting a report on the National Security Strategy of the United States.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 12. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Exchange With Reporters Following
a Medical Checkup in Bethesda,
Maryland**

January 12, 2001

President's Health

Q. How did it go, Mr. President?

The President. Very well. My eyes are still dilated, so I have to be a little careful. They're a little foggy out here.

But before I leave, I would just like to thank the Bethesda Naval Hospital for the wonderful care they have given to me and to members of my family over these last 8 years. This is a terrific place, and these people have been great to me, not only in all my physicals but when I was so badly injured and on other occasions when I or someone in my family needed it. I'm very, very grateful to them.

Q. How is the knee?

The President. Oh, my knee is great. My knee is great. You'll get a report. My chole-

sterol is a little too high because I haven't exercised, and I ate all that Christmas dessert. But in 6 months it will be back to normal. [*Laughter*] I knew I was doing it, but what the heck. It was my last time, and I wanted to enjoy it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 3:30 p.m. at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Proclamation 7390—Martin Luther
King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2001**

January 12, 2001

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Seventy-two years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr., was born into a sharply divided Nation, a place where the color of a child's skin too often determined that child's destiny. America was a place where segregation and discrimination put limits on a black child's dreams, opportunities, and future.

Dr. King led America to a better place. With eloquence, he articulated the struggles and hopes of generations of African Americans. With the power of his leadership, he rallied Americans of every race and creed to join together in the march for justice. With courage, conviction, and faith in God, he sought to make real in everyday practice—in schools, in the workplace, in public accommodations, and in the hearts and minds of his fellow citizens—the civil rights victories that had been won in the courts.

Although his life was cruelly cut short before his mission was complete, he helped put our Nation firmly on the right path, where the ideals of liberty, equality, brotherhood, and justice are not merely words on a page,